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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/644,952

08/21/2003

Takao Yamazaki

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04/20/2005

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EXAMINER

CLARK, JASMINE JHIHAN B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2815

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/644,952	Applicant(s) TAKAO YAMAZAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner Jasmine J. Clark	Art Unit 2815	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-77 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 28-48 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-23, 25, 27, 49-58, 68 and 70-77 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6, 26, 60 and 62-67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 5, 7-10 and 61 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/21/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 28-48 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected group II, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 04/06/05.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-3, 6, 26, 59, 60, 62-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chung (US 6,376,769 B1).

Chung shows a structure (see Fig. 20), a semiconductor element 420; a flexible substrate 410 having at least one electrode pad 430 and surrounding the semiconductor

element 420; a conductor 413 for connecting the semiconductor element 420; and a plurality of solder bumps connecting to the semiconductor element 420; wherein at least a first portion between a surface of the semiconductor element 420 facing the solder bumps 424 is not fixed by adhesion. While the electrode pad is now clearly shown between the conductor 413 and the semiconductor element 420, it is inherently present or certainly would have been obvious to employ in the semiconductor device, as is notoriously known.

Concerning claims 2 and 3, wherein a second portion between a side surface of the semiconductor element and the flexible substrate is not fixed by adhesion, and wherein the first portion is smaller than all the area of the surface of the semiconductor element 420 facing the solder bumps 424.

Wherein the first portion is larger than all the area of the surface of the semiconductor element facing the solder bumps 432.

Concerning claims 26, 59, 60, and 62-67, for example, a plurality of a semiconductor device stacked and mounted on an external substrate, wherein at least the lowermost semiconductor device is a semiconductor device as set forth in claims 60, and 62-67, please see Fig. 21.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 4, 5, 7-10, 61 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The applied reference fails to teach and/or suggest the limitations as set forth in claims 4, 5, 7-10, and 61.

4. Claims 11-22, 23, 25, 27, 49-58, 68, and 70-77 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the applied reference fails to teach and/or suggest as follows:

a) a plate between a surface of the semiconductor element facing the solder bumps and the flexible substrate as set forth in claim 11.

b) means for relieving a thermal stress between the semiconductor element and an external substrate on which the semiconductor device is mounted as set forth in claim 23.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Telephone Inquiry Contacts

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jasmine J. Clark whose telephone number is (571) 272-1726. The examiner can normally be reached on Flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Thomas can be reached on (571) 272-1664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jjbc/04/15/05

JASMINE CLARK
PRIMARY EXAMINER

